

IN THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the Paragraphs [009], [011], [013], [022], [023], [029], [032], [036], [042], [053]-[055], [060], [063], [064], [065], [068] and add Paragraphs [001] and [085] as shown below.

deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring. Also, please delete the heading appearing between Paragraphs [004]-[005], add a heading between Paragraphs [006]-[007] and amend the Headings appearing between Paragraphs [018]-[019] and between Paragraphs [041]-[042] as shown below. Deleted terms are shown with strikethrough and/or double brackets, and added terms are shown with underscoring.

Paragraph [001]

Cross Reference To Related Applications

This application claims priority Under 35 USC 119 from Japanese Patent Applications 2003-163952 filed June 09, 2003 and 2003-383765 filed 13 November 2003, the entire disclosures of which are hereby incorporated by reference.

Paragraph [009] According to a second aspect of the present invention, there is provided a device for removing earwax which adheres to a signal outputting portion of a hearing aid, comprising a brush provided in a case and a liquid retaining member, for retaining a cleaning liquid, also provided in a case.

Paragraph [011] According to a fourth aspect of the present invention, in the device of the

second aspect, the case for the brush forms an upper case and the case for the liquid retaining member forms a lower case which mates with the upper case so as to become a unitary case.

Paragraph [013] According to a sixth aspect of the present invention, in the device of the first, the second, or the fifth aspect, the case for the brush is fixed to a vibration driving means ~~so as to undergo~~ which imparts at least one of vibration, rotating movement, reciprocating movement ~~[[or]]~~ and two-dimensional movement to the case.

Paragraph [022] According to the fourth aspect of the present invention, since the case for the brush forms an upper case and the case for the liquid retaining member forms a lower case which mates with the upper case so as to become a unitary case, easy maintenance and user-friendliness can be achieved.

Paragraph [023] According to the fifth aspect of the present invention, since the brush is comprised of a hair structure arranged in the liquid retaining member, earwax adhering to the signal outputting portion can be removed easily while being soaked with the liquid, e.g., disinfecting alcohol, by applying the signal outputting portion of the hearing aid to the brush and moving it back and forth, left and right, or circularly~~[[,]]~~.

Paragraph [029] According to the eleventh aspect of the present invention, it is possible to efficiently conduct removal of earwax with both the brush and the cleaning member such as a sponge or cotton absorbing a cleaning liquid such as disinfecting alcohol.

Paragraph [032] ~~FIG. 3 is a~~ FIGS. 3(a), 3(b) are perspective views of a device for removing earwax according to a third embodiment of the present invention, in which FIG. 3 (a) shows an example of dividing a case in the center by a partition plate, and FIG. 3 (b) shows an example of forming a brush in a doughnut shape onto a liquid retaining member;

Paragraph [037] ~~FIG. 7 shows~~ FIGS. 7(a) – (c) show a device for removing earwax according to a seventh embodiment of the present invention, in which FIG. 7 (a) is a perspective view, FIG. 7 (b) is a plan view, and FIG. 7 (c) is a cross-sectional view;

Paragraph [042] Embodiments of the present invention will now be described with reference to the attached drawings. FIG. 1 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 2 is a perspective view of a second embodiment of the present invention, ~~FIG. 3 is a~~ FIGS. 3(a), 3(b) are perspective views of a third embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 4 is a perspective view of a fourth embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 5 is a perspective view of a fifth embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 6 is a perspective view of a sixth embodiment of the present invention, FIGS. 7(a)-(c) show~~[[s]]~~ a seventh embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 8 is a perspective view showing the rotating state of the brush, FIG. 9 is a perspective view of an eighth embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 10 is a perspective view of a ninth embodiment of the present invention, FIG. 11 is a perspective view of a tenth embodiment of the present invention, and FIG. 12 is a perspective view of an eleventh embodiment of the present invention.

Paragraph [053] As shown in FIGS. 3(a)-(c), the third embodiment of the device for removing earwax is comprised of a cylindrical case 5 having a bottom, a brush 2 and a liquid retaining member 4 for a cleaning liquid, both of which are accommodated in the case 5. The liquid retaining member 4 absorbs disinfecting alcohol. A lid may be provided for the case 5.

Paragraph [054] FIG. 3 (a) shows an example where the brush 2 and the liquid retaining member 4 are accommodated in the case 5 which is divided in the center by a partition plate 5a. Alternatively, the brush 2 and the liquid retaining member 4 may be accommodated in the case 5 in parallel without using the partition plate 5a. FIG. 3 (b) shows an example where the brush 2 is formed in a doughnut shape surrounding the liquid retaining member 4 which is accommodated in the case 5.

Paragraph [055] As shown in FIG. 4, the fourth embodiment of the device for removing earwax is comprised of a brush 2, a case 6 for accommodating the brush 2, a liquid retaining member 4 which absorbs disinfecting alcohol, and a case 7 for accommodating the liquid retaining member 4, in which the case 6 forms an upper case and the case 7 forms a lower case. When the cleaning device is used, the upper case and the lower case are separated. When the cleaning device is not used, the upper case and the lower case can be mated together as a unitary case.

Paragraph [060] Since the recessed portion 10 having a column shape whose diameter is larger than the outer diameter of the hearing aid H is provided in the liquid retaining member 4, and the brush 2 is formed by arranging a hair structure directly in the bottom surface 10a, the surface of the hearing aid H can be cleaned by the alcohol at the same time when earwax adhering to the earwax guard tip C ~~can be~~ is being removed by the brush 2 ~~while being~~ because the brush is soaked with the alcohol.

Paragraph [063] The above-mentioned cases 1, 5, and 6 may be fixed to a vibration driving means ~~(not shown in the drawing)~~ shown schematically at 40 in FIG. 1 so as to undergo periodic movement such as vibration, horizontally-rotating movement, horizontally-reciprocating movement or horizontal and two-dimensional movement in a state where the earwax guard tip C is pushed onto the brush 2. In addition, if the vibration driving means has a timer, it becomes possible to conduct cleaning with the brush for a reasonable period of time.

Paragraph [064] As shown in FIG. 8, the device may comprise a brush 12 of a column shape, and the brush 12 may be attached to a rotation driving means 13 such as a handle. The brush 12 is rotated around the rotation axis 12a, and the rotated brush 12 is pushed onto the earwax guard tip C, so that earwax adhering to the earwax guard tip C can be removed easily and quickly.

Paragraph [065] Also, a member, such as disposable paper tissue, for wiping the alcohol which adheres to the surface of the hearing aid H ~~such as disposable paper tissue~~ after the

cleaning may be provided in the cases 1, 3, 5 and 6 or the lids of the cases 1, 3, and 5. With this, it is possible to keep the hearing aid H clean, and a user can wear the hearing aid H immediately.

Paragraph [068] The device of the present invention can be accommodated in a hearing aid drying case or a hearing aid carrying case (~~not shown in the drawing~~) shown schematically at 42 in FIG. 1. With this, cleaning can be conducted whenever it is needed.

Paragraph [084] According to the present invention, it is not necessary to replace an earwax guard tip, and also a user can remove earwax from the earwax guard tip easily on his/her own. Therefore, user-friendliness can be improved, which allows a hearing aid to be ~~widespread~~ more widely accepted and used.

Paragraph [085] Although the present illustrative embodiments of the invention have been disclosed in detail, it will be understood that variations and modifications may be made thereto within the spirit of scope of the claimed invention.

Heading Between Paragraphs [004] and [005].

~~Disclosure of the Invention~~

Heading Added Between Paragraphs [006] and [007].

Summary of the Invention

Heading Between Paragraphs [018] and [019].

Effects of the Invention

Heading Added Between Paragraphs [041] and [042].

~~Best Mode for Carrying Out~~ Detailed Description of Illustrative Embodiments of the Invention